Kyle Boten 5-J   
10-1-09  
GT Reading

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| **Story Elements** | **My Thinking** |
| Character | John A. Stokes  \*Age 12  \*Colored boy  \*Careful  \*Scared of whites  \*Left out  \*Member of New Farmers America  \*Tired of being pushed around  \*John is feeling different  \*He got to go to school and whites taunt him and treat him like nothing.  \*He’s tired of being treated wrongly  \*He’s trying to defeat the racism of the world  \*He’s going on strike for a school equal to the whites  \*He’s getting more kids to go on strike with him  \*John prepares for whatever happens to his strike and the school  \*John’s non-segregation school idea wins by 1 vote  \*John is never giving up until the Negro rights are equal |
| Setting | \*Farmville, Virginia during the Great Depression  \*John’s school |
| Plot | \*John starts high school  \*John is in New Farmers of America  \*John isn’t allowed to sit on a porch and have ice cream  \*John creates a strike committee for rights of Negro schools  \*The strike is told if they don’t attend classes on grounds they are trespassing.  \*The voting for a non-segregation school wins by one vote  \*The cross in the courtyard high school was set fire  \*Strike ends on May 7, 1591  \*Mr. Jones was fired as a principal  \*John Lancaster was fired as county agent for colored farmers  \*NAACP files a lawsuit against Prince Edward County school district  \*The case was called *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*  \*All schools in the county were closed for five years except the white schools that got vouchers.  \*The public schools officially desegregated between 1964 and 1965 but the full integration didn’t start until the 80s.  \*Not only did the discrimination end in the county, but the country |

**Summary**

In the book Students on Strike, a colored boy named John A. Stokes is tired of having all the whites push him around. He was tired of this because he is always excited to do something and then finds out that only the white people can do these things. He felt sad because the whites were getting everything he wanted. He then starts a strike committee for Negro schools and the war is on!

The strike goes well for a while until the children are told if they do not attend classes, they are considered trespassers. John decides that a better way to win for the Negro schools is to make a vote at the church. The people could choose that Negro schools shouldn’t have rights or they should have rights. With a bit of luck for John, the Negro rights won by one vote.

Later on, the cross in front of the school is set on fire and John could see the towels used to set the flame. After that accident, John and the large group of students on strike had given up the strike on May 7, 1591. The principal, Mr. Jones, was fired as was John Lancaster, the county agent for colored farmers of America.

The NAACP then filed a lawsuit against Prince Edward County and the case was called *Davis v. County School Board of Prince* *Edward County*. After many lawsuits against the School Board of Prince Edward, the schools closed for five years, making college and elementary school harder as six year olds could come to fifth grade and not even to be able to tell time on an analog clock! The public schools desegregated earlier than the whole county. By the eighties, all discrimination in the **country** was dissolved and John learned if you want something, work for it.

I enjoyed this book because it had just the right balance between action, drama and a happy ending isn’t so bad.